Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 8075

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REACHED ON HESSEN COALITION CABINET AND POLICY

PROGRAM

REF: FRANKFURT'S 7980

1. SUMMARY: IN MARATHON SESSIONS OVER WEEKEND SPD REACHED AGREEMENT ON FILLING VACANCIES LEFT BY FRIEDEBURG AND HEMFLER RESIGNATIONS, AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF SPD AND FDP SETTLED ON COMPROMISE POLICY PROGRAM TO PERMIT CONTINUATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT IN HESSEN. FRANKFURT SPD EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF POLICY AND PERSONNEL CONCESSIONS MADE BY MINISTER-PRESIDENT OSSWALD, AND LORD MAYOR ARNDT HAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS CANDIDACY TO REPLACE OSSWALD AS SOUTH HESSEN SPD

CHAIRMAN AT NEXT DISTRICT CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

- 2. IN MEETINGS LASTING VIRTUALLY ALL NIGHT DECEMBER 6-7 IN BAD ORB, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) DECIDED SHIFT AGRICULTURE MINISTER KROLLMANN TO FILL EDUCATION MINISTRY VACATED BY FRIEDEBURG AFTER SEVERAL SOUTH HESSEN CANDIDATES HAD DECLINED NOMINATION. PARTY TURNED TO KROLLMANN AFTER SPD LANDTAG FACTION, IN WHICH MODERATE ELEMENTS APPARENTLY STRENGTHENED BY OCTOBER 27 ELECTIONS, HAD REJECTED LEFTIST-DOMINATED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTY SPERLING FOR THE POST. KASSEL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT RUEDIGER WILL BE APPOINTED STATE SECRETARY IN EDUCATION MINISTRY. THIS REPORTEDLY WAS CONDITION IMPOSED BY KROLLMANN AND HIS NORTH HESSEN COLLEAGUES AND APPEARS TO BE MEASURE OF POLITICAL REINSURANCE. SHE IS LEFTIST AND WAS PROMINENT MEMBER OF SOUTH HESSEN SPD AND EDUCATION SPOKESMAN OF LANDTAG FACTION UNTIL KASSEL UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED TWO YEARS AGO. HER CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR MINISTRY SHOULD HELP PROTECT KROLLMANN AGAINST SOUTH HESSEN LEFTIST SNIPING.
- 3. LANDTAG FACTION CHAIRMAN GOERLACH, WHO WAS REINSTATED IN THAT POSITION ONLY FEW HOURS EARLIER, WILL REPLACE KROLLMANN AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT. AT 33 YEARS OF AGE HE SUCCEEDS SAARLAND MINISTER WASCHBUESCH AS YOUNGEST IN FRG. HE REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED CABINET POSITION ONLY ON CONDITION THAT HESSEN DGB PRESIDENT CLAUSS SUCCEED HIM AS FACTION CHAIRMAN, WHICH PARTY AGREED TO. CLAUSS THUS BECOMES ONE OF BUSIEST POLITICIANS IN FRG. DESPITE BITTER OBJECTIONS OF SOUTH HESSEN MAJORITY IN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, KASSEL LANDRAT GUENTHER ACCEPTED AS JUSTICE MINISTER REPLACING HEMFLER.
- 4. THIS LEAVES ECONOMICS AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES FOR FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP), AND KARRY AND BIELEFELD WILL PRESUMABLY RETAIN THESE POSTS. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDITION TO RUEDIGER VICE MOOS, THERE MAY BE OTHER CHANGES AT STATE SECRETARY LEVEL BEFORE NEW GOVERNMENT PRESENTED TO LANDTAG DECEMBER 18-19. COALITION POLICY STATEMENT WORKED OUT BY PARTY LEADERS WAS ACCEPTED BY SPD EXECUTIVE DECEMBER 7 AND FDP EXECUTIVE DECEMBER 8. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED TODAY (DECEMBER 9) AND REPORTEDLY CONTAINS SEVERAL CONCESSIONS TO FDP DEMANDS, INCLUDING NO ADDITIONAL

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS, PROVISION FOR CABINET MINISTERS TO GIVE UP LANDTAG SEATS FOR DURATION THEIR OFFICE, SOME SPIN-OFF OF ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT FUNCTIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ETC. (AIRGRAM BEING PREPARED).

5. LOCAL FRANKFURT SPD CONVENTION DECEMBER 7, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS LONG RANGE POLICIES FOR 1980S, TURNED INTO BITTER POST MORTEM ON COALITION NEGOTIATIONS. MINISTER-PRESIDENT OSSWALD AND FEDERAL SPD MANAGER BOERNER (LATTER LED NORTH HESSEN TEAM IN NEGOTIATIONS) WERE DENOUNCED FOR FORCING FRIEDEBURG OUT OF OFFICE AND FOR MAKING PERSONNEL AND POLICY CONCESSIONS TO QUOTE RIGHTISTS UNQUOTE AND TO FDP FOR SAKE OF CLINGING TO POWER IN WIESBADEN AND BONN. FRANKFURT SPD CHAIRMAN GEBHARDT EXPRESSED DOUBT WHETHER NEW HESSEN GOVERNMENT WOULD HOLD TOGETHER FOR FOUR YEARS.

6. DELEGATES' DEMANDS THAT SPD LANDTAG DEPUTIES
WITHHOLD VOTES WHEN OSSWALD SCHEDULED TO BE
RE-ELECTED MINISTER-PRESIDENT DECEMBER 18 WERE
STILLED AFTER LEFTIST EXECUTIVE MEMBER POINTED OUT
THAT OSSWALD MUST BE RE-ELECTED IF BOERNER OR
DREGGER (HESSEN CDU CHAIRMAN) ALTERNATIVES TO BE
AVOIDED. DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EMERGENCY
CONVENTION TO OUST OSSWALD WAS WITHDRAWN AFTER LORD
MAYOR ARNDT, CONDEMNING UNNAMED SPD LEADERS FOR
QUOTE AIMLESS UQUOTE CONDUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS,
ANNOUNCED AMID STORMY APPLAUSE THAT HE WOULD
BE CANDIDATE FOR SOUTH HESSEN SPD CHAIRMANSHIP NOW
HELD BY OSSWALD AT NEXT DISTRICT CONVENTION
(PROBABLY MARCH 1975).HARLAN
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